(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how proposed changes are expected to benefit industry, consumers and Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There is no proposal for review of FDI norms for Telecom Industry at the stage.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Availability of low cost computers

102. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been taken to bring down the prices of computers; and

(b) if so, whether steps would be taken to make computers available at every nook and corner of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is facilitating the industry to make available Personal Computers (PCs) at affordable prices for the masses. Three companies have already launched PCs costing less than Rs. 10,000/- in the market.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Report of the Expert Committee on "PC Penetration, Internet and Domestic Software" set up by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Department of Information Technology has delineated a vision for India which envisages increase in PC penetration by 2008 to the levels of 65 PCs per 1000 persons from the existing 14 PCs per 1000 persons.

Demand for additional spectrum by telecom operators

103. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that telecom operators have been demanding additional spectrum to run the service efficiently and to add more subscribers;

(b) whether Government have prepared a road map in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes* Sir.

(b) The demand for additional spectrum is met on case by case basis, after coordination, where necessary, with the existing users. In addition, necessary steps have been taken for providing alternate media like Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) for some of the existing wireless links, with the objective of releasing additional spectrum in relevant frequency bands.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Grievance redressal mechanism of BSNL and MTNL

104. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recommendations of TRAI for setting up of Ombudsman for the telecom sector in August, 2004, have been rejected by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the rejection is due to the availability of existing mechanism of holding Telephone Adalats of MTNL and BSNL; and

(d) if so, the details of Telephone Adalats hold during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise, alongwith the number of public grievances attended to by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997, the jurisdiction of Consumer Forum Courts has not been ousted. Any parallel